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TURNER

NAPLES, ITALY, MARCH 2, REUTER - THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) SAID TODAY NATO SHOULD IMPROVE ITS MILITARY READINESS TO MATCH AN UNEXPLAINED EXPANSION BY THE SOVIET UNION.

"THERE IS A CONTINUING NEED TO IMPROVE AND UPDATE OUR MILITARY READINESS IN ORDER TO DETER AN ADVERSARY WHOSE MILITARY STRENGTH CONTINUES TO EXPAND FOR REASONS WE CANNOT FATHOM," ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER SAID.

BUT THE ADMIRAL, IN A SPEECH AT A CEREMONY MARKING END OF HIS TOUR AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, ALSO SAID THAT "A SENSE OF DEDICATION TO THE (NATO) ALLIANCE IS AGAIN ON THE INCREASE."

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HE DECLARED THAT THE STRENGTH OF NATO WAS ITS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND THE DIGNITY OF MAN AND THIS WAS "MUCH STRONGER THAN TOTALITARIAN DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE HEAVY BURDEN OF THE FAULTY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IDEOLOGY OF THE WARSAW PACT."

"AS LONG AS WE SUSTAIN OUR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY WE SHALL BE SAFE," HE ADDED.

THE ADMIRAL'S COMMENTS WERE SEEN HERE AS A CLEAR SIGN OF HIS OPPOSITION TO SUBSTANTIAL CUTS IN DEFENSE SPENDING.

GENERAL ALEXANDER HAIG, SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER IN EUROPE, HAILED ADMIRAL TURNER FOR HIS HANDLING OF NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK, TROUBLED BY THE BITTER DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY OVER CYPRUS.

HE APPOINTED ITALIAN ADMIRAL LUIGI TOMASUOLO AS HIS TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT.

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